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WARM WEATHER CLOTHES FOR SMALL CHILDREN

★ MAY 25 1931 ★

A radio talk by Clarice L. Scott, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcast Company, Thursday, May 14, 1931, at 12:54 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

No doubt your sewing machine fairly hums, now-a-days, as you turn out brand new outfits for the children. But suppose you release the treadle for just a few minutes before finishing the youngster's summer wardrobe. I would like to tell you about the new hot weather outfits which we have designed at the Bureau of Home Economics.

These new outfits are most intriguing, even to their name. We call them Sunsuit Ensembles, for it pleases a child to have things that sound "grown-up". But there is even more reason for this up-to-date name. The cool comforts of last year's sunsuit are united with the good appearance of an away-from-home outfit, and the result is a suit that is not only comfortable and attractive, but easily adapted to practically any occasion. From sun baths to afternoon calls, an ensemble is just the thing! It sounds unbelievable that one outfit can be so accommodating, but it's possible, nevertheless. Over a neat sunsuit, a little girl wears a matching dress, and a small boy, an over-blouse. In this way, one garment serves either as a cool and airy undergarment with the dress, or as a sunsuit without it. Imagine how these outfits reduce the laundry!

Let me describe one planned for the little girl. At first glance, she seems to be wearing a perfectly simple gingham dress - one built for play, yet very smart in design. Box pleats, one at each side of the back and front, provide fullness, and the raglan sleeves are cut short and roomy for comfort. The low neckline is collarless. That's a detail worth noting, for collars are usually very warm on a hot day. Besides, they muss badly and are a nuisance to iron. You see, we think of mothers too when designing children's clothes.

Another special feature of the dress is its convenient center front opening. Three decorative tabs add to the design and mark the places for buttons. You'd be surprised to see how quickly even a very little girl can manage this dress all by herself. And that is the idea of the whole thing. When she feels a bit too warm, off comes the dress. As if by magic, she is appropriately dressed either for cool play or a sun bath. What first appears to be ordinary matching panties is in reality a romper sunsuit with a marquisette top. It is cut so as to allow all kinds of activity, yet style and good appearance are not neglected. And it has another practical feature, too:- strap extensions on the shoulders to provide more length when needed.

A small boy needs to be kept cool as well as a little girl, so we have designed an equally practical and attractive suit for him. It is especially good on a two or three-year-old lad who still wears an overblouse becomingly. He buttons his self-help trousers onto a surplice net waist that requires no buttons except those that also support the trousers. Over this, he merely puts on a matching overblouse and is appropriately dressed for the street.

(over)

All of the little things that make clothes a nuisance to a boy are done away with in this suit. It is collarless, sleeveless and there are no trick fastenings. It closes at center front with buttons that are just the right size for him to manage easily, and the three buttonholes are easy for him to find because of decorative tabs like those on the girl's tailored dress. The jacket-like blouse can be shed in a jiffy whenever he wishes to dig in the sandpile, or when it's time for a sun-bath. Just as quickly he can put it on when there is danger of cooling off too rapidly after active play, or when there is a call to come to dinner.

Soft, color-fast chambray was used for both of these outfits. Many other cottons would have been just as good, but chambray is inexpensive and can be found in delightful colors. Blue makes a cool looking outfit and it is very attractive, indeed, when the neck and front edge are finished as well as strengthened with a short dark, blue blanket stitch, overhanded with yellow.

These two sunsuit ensembles and others are illustrated in a four-page leaflet which is yours for the asking. Just write to the Bureau of Home Economics, in Washington, or to your station and ask for leaflet 63 - "Ensembles for Sunny Days." Also, if you wish to know where patterns for the ensembles can be obtained, we'll tell you.